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FLOOR DEBATE

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amount of money that could be collected in this fund at any one point in time. And early on the limit was...believe it was \$10 million, a three-tenths of a cent fee went off, and at \$1 million it went back...or \$3 million it went back on, something like that. What concerned me, and I would speak, if I could, very strongly to the members of this Legislature body who will be back, but the cap on this fee disappeared in a rewrite and was never mentioned in the committee transcript, it was never mentioned on the floor. The increase in fee was the removal of the cap so it became an uncontrolled growth; was not mentioned. Now, this is not a first time happenstance in my life here. My words this evening would be pay attention when any agency of state government brings to you a clean-up bill or something purported to be a clean-up bill or only a modification. Be careful. We could not find any record of any member of the Legislature at any time being aware of the cap being lifted. Now, if I'm wrong you can go ahead and prove me wrong, but this is my concern on this issue. Senator Baker told me that he will be following up on it the next session. I trust him to do that. But simply be careful. Much of the growth of state government occurs in ways that the Legislature does not authorize openly. It comes into being in ways that the cap on this fund was taken off. So that's all I have to say on this issue at this time, but it is a very, very serious matter when budget items grow and no one here knows about it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Coordsen, your light is next. Did you wish to use that time? Senator Coordsen waives that opportunity. There are no further lights on. Senator Baker, did you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR BAKER: I wish to withdraw that amendment at this time, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The amendment is withdrawn.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Nothing else on the...Mr. Clerk, for an amendment.